

I am a careful consumer of media information, which derives from my having a bachelor's degree in journalism. Because of my studies, I have a strong belief that a legitimate democracy can only exist if there is a properly informed electorate. I believe that an informed electorate can only be achieved if the sources of information are vast and varied and held to serve the public's interest. I was extremely disheartened this year when I learned that the Sinclair Group had preempted Nightline. I do not say this as a Democrat or Republican, a Conservative or Liberal. I say this as an American who understands the incredible power that those who control the media have to shape the thoughts and beliefs of the citizenry.

Now I have read that the Sinclair Group is requiring that their affiliates air a documentary critical of the Democratic Presidential Nominee John Kerry. No rational person could believe that this move is not politically motivated. It is unconscionable that a small group (the Smith family) is given the right to use public airwaves to further their personal political agenda. It is wrong - simply wrong. That my government would permit this misuse of the airwaves gives credence to the montra of the disenfranchised - that special interest have the ultimate power in this country. But I write to you anyway to express my outrage at Sinclair's actions and hope that you understand that my small voice is not alone.